

PATENT
USSN 09/432,503
015389-002611US; 018/063c

REMARKS

Claims 41-57 cover a process for increasing proliferative capacity of a cell by introducing into the cell *in vitro* a polynucleotide encoding TRT. Claims 58-91 cover a process for increasing proliferative capacity of a cell, not limited to *in vitro* use. The dependent claims cover particular vectors and treatment sites which are of current commercial interest.

The amended claims are supported *inter alia* by the claims as previously presented, and do not introduce new subject matter into the disclosure. The claims have been amended to capture subject matter of current commercial interest. Applicants do not intend to dedicate to the public any subject matter previously claimed or their equivalents.

As explained previously, there is considerable evidence that the vectors referred to in the claims can be used effectively for gene therapy both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentable for reasons previously indicated.

Request for Interview


Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a prompt Notice of Allowance is requested.

In the event that the Examiner determines that there are other matters to be addressed, applicants hereby request an interview. Please contact applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below.

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Should the Patent Office determine that a further extension of time or any other relief is required for further consideration of this application, applicants hereby petition for such relief. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the cost of such petitions and other fees due in connection with the filing of these papers to Deposit Account No. 07-1139.

Respectfully submitted,



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February 26, 2004

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Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

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